

REPORT

James Voller 26.10.2010

My three months Residency as part of the Krems Artist in Residence Programme has provided me a fantastic opportunity and has been great for both my personal development and professional practice. It has been a wonderful experience that I will always remember.

The facilities at Krems are of the highest quality, clean warm and with great light all of which provide a lovely atmosphere in which to create work. This coupled with the great team that work at the residency; Sabine, Karin and Elke ensures the residence runs smoothly. Their organisational skills are second to none and they treat all artist with a friendly and professional disposition. This has made the residency a great place to live and work for three months.

During my stay I have networked with other artists in residence from around the world and this has given me the chance to test the current strategies employed in my practice as well as forming long lasting friendships. Further, the residency has allowed me to establish networks with the Niederösterreich Art community and has opened the door for future opportunities for me to return to work within Niederösterreich, not to mention the possibility of working with other residency artists in the future.

Meeting and socializing with other artists resulted in some very interesting trips to Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

I generated a series of public photographic installations, documentary series and a gallery installations for an exhibition at the Kunstveiren Baden.

“Construction Sight” was the series of public interventions I created around Krems. The series is concerned with how Central Europe interacts with industrialisation and globalization, growth and change in Krems is a major aspect of how people construct a sense of identity. The works focus on the preservation of towns , in which buildings are preserved, or left to become ruins. Through this one can see how a sense of identity is buttressed. The placing of imagery of ruins in preserved 'historic' town centres highlights the highly manufactured sense of local identity within the Krems community.

Homely/Unheimlich my exhibition at Kunstverein Baden employed photographic prints that convey shifts to the New Zealand and Austrian social environments, as well as large-scale photographic interventions. In particular the show was concerned with how construction is a major element of change in society and is thus a key indicator of economic, political and social trends. The show, which was a pleasure to install was made possible thanks the generosity of the Kunstverein Baden Director, Cornelia Konig.

My time at Krems has been a unique opportunity to shift the environment in which I work and has enabled me to expand my practice cross-culturally. As a result I feel the residency and my practice have strengthened my interactions with curators and directors and has opened many doors within other art scenes around the world, as the Krems residency is held in high regard internationally.